



Special Non-Special issue (LASFS is special - De Prof needn't be)

December 2003

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KEY TO CALENDAR & OTHER IMPEDIMENTA

ESTROGEN ZONE = Ladies Auxiliary Sewing and Fallout Society

TRIPE = Temporal Retrieval of Information Programming and Entertainment.

BOD = Board of Directors

2nd Sunday = Board and other gaming

Cinema Anime = Japanimation

CFO = Cartoon Fantasy Organisation

Work Party = Varies with what needs doing

FWEMS = Fourth Sunday Movies - 2 pm

TIME MEDDLERS = Dr. Who club

CALENDAR DETAILS

TRIPE - Noon until whenever

BOD - 11:00 am, games start at 2:00 pm

Cinema Anime - 1:00 pm until it ends

CFO - 1 pm to 8 pm

Work Party - 10:30 am

TIME MEDDLERS - 10:30 am

ESTROGEN ZONE - 2:00 pm

Marketing Committee - 7:30 pm

FWEMS - Cliffhanger Double Feature: Allies versus the Nazis

THURSDAY

PROGRAMME ITEMS

DECEMBER 4 - Nominations for LASFS' President

DECEMBER 11 - Procedural Elections

DECEMBER 18 - Video Presentation: Martians Attack our Republic

DECEMBER 25 - WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

NOTIFICATIONS

Ruth Rigel (actual name Ruth Nataroff), who was active in LASFS in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, has terminal cancer and is expected to live between 2 weeks and 2 months. She cannot talk on the phone, but people can write to her at her home in Forks, Washington:

Ruth Nat aroff
P. O. Box 1484
Forks, WA 98331

From the Valhallans e-list: Jack Newkom passed away this weekend. No details as of this printing.

COLOPHON

De Profundis 370 – October, 2003. Editor: **Marty Cantor**. Production Assistants: **Bob Null** and **Phil Castora**. Mailing List: **Liz Mortensen**. Mailing Labels: **Fuzzy Pink Niven**.

De Profundis is the official newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA). Our telephone number is: (818) 760-9234. Our web site is: www.lasfs.org. *De Profundis* is available to active LASFS members, Patron Friends & Saints of the LASFS, voluntary active LASFS members, and in exchange for other fanzines. VAMs are available for \$10 per year, payable to LASFS, Inc.

Westercon is a service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Incorporated (LASFS, Inc.), Worldcon and NASFIC are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS).

We want any news of interest to LASFS members (no poetry or fiction). Send items to the LASFS address c/o *De Profundis* or leave them in the *De Profundis* mailbox at the clubhouse. The editor, Marty Cantor, can be reached at the clubhouse on Thursday evenings or at his edress: hoohah-pubs@earthlink.net. Deadlines are a bit fluid, but mid-month Thursdays are probably it.

Address corrections should be given or sent to the LASFS Treasurer at the clubhouse.

Due to the press of other material there is currently no space available in *De Profundis* for advertising. I will always try to find room to announce upcoming events of interest to members.

Due to space limitations, priority is always given to content mandated in the LASFS by-laws and by any applicable traditions. Also, after that stuff, by what the editor wants to do.

Written in Publisher 2000 on a custom-built Pentium III 500 computer, printed on an HP DeskJet 895 Cxi, with reproduction on a Gestetner CopyPrinter 5329L.

Statements herein are those of the speaker/writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the club. *Interjections in italics are solely the responsibility of the smartass, er, editor. Any resemblances 'twixt smartassery and responsibility are purely coincidental.*

This is Hoo Hah Publication No.846.

LASFS OFFICERS

Elected Procedural Officers

President: Ed Green. **Vice-President:** Mike Thorsen. **Scribe:** Karl Lembke. **Treasurer:** Liz Mortensen. **Registrar:** Robert Keller & Ben Masso gia (tag team).

Board of Directors

Chairman: Karl Lembke (2006). **Vice-Chairman:** Mike Thorsen (2004). **Comptroller:** Michael Mason (2006). **Secretary:** Joe Zeff (2005). **Other members:** Merlin R. "Bob" Null (2006), Ed Green (2006), Liz Mortensen (2004), Cathy Beckstead (2004), Bret Achorn (2005), Marty Cantor (2005), Bill Ellem (2005) **Special Advisor:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **Advisors:** Forrest J. Ackerman, Walt Daugherty, Len & June Moffatt, and Fred Patten.

Official Committees

De Profundis Editor: Marty Cantor. **Librarian:** Michael Mason. **Librarian Emeritus:** Leigh Strother Vien. **Assistant Librarians:** Greg Barrett, Doc Reames, Joyce Sperling and Ed Hooper. **Special Guest Librarian:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **LASFS Answer Guy:** Greg Barrett. **LASFS/APA-L Liaison:** Marty Cantor. **Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS:** Tadao Tomomatsu, C.B. McGuire, Dale Hales. ****Legion of Substitute Gouges:** Sandy Cohen, Ed Green. ****Strategic Reserve Registrar:** Robert Keller. **Eulogist, Public Relations, Video Collection Curator, Film Coord. Committee, & Party Rabbi** (take a deep breath here): Charles Lee Jackson II. **Programming Committee:** Robert Keller. **Assistant Video Curators:** Doc Reames, Alison Stern. **Hall Decoration:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Silent Auction Coordinator:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Science Monitor:** Christian McGuire. **Non-Science**

Monitor: Mike Stern. **Asian Affairs Desk:** Brett Achorn. **Key Control:** Liz Mortensen, Bob Null. **Janitorial Services:** Greg Bilan, Mike Thorsen. **Special Photographic Collection:** Mike Donahue. **Webmaster - <lasfs.org>:** Karl Lembke. **Sysadmin:** Chaz Baden. **Ministry of Silly Gavels:** Bob Null. ****LASFS Imaging Project:** C.B. McGuire. **Committee for Children's Literature:** Anne Morrel, Editor; Greg Barrett, Facilitator. **Computers & LASFS Archives:** Bob Null, Eylat Poliner. **Charity Coordinator:** Liz Mortensen. **Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council Liaison:** Marty Cantor. **LASFS Historian:** Fred Patten. **North Hollywood Arts District Liaison:** George Van Wagner. **Hagiography & Ecclesiastical Affairs:** Vanessa Van Wagner.

Honorary Officers

Sergeant-at-Arms In Perpetuity: Roy Tackett. **Windmill-at-Arms:** Kees van Toorn. **Samurai-at-Arms:** Takumi Shibano. **Librarian-at-Arms:** Heather Stern.

LASFS

GIFT EXCHANGE

Friday, December 12, 2002

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Exchange of Gifts begin at 8:00 pm

(All welcome - bring a present to exchange. See rules elsewhere in thish)

LASFS

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

December 25

from 2 pm until midnight

(a celebration of any Winter holiday you care to celebrate)

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

(complete minutes can be read in APA -L and are filed in the archives)

Meeting #3451, October 2, 2003

Ed Green, President

Karl Lemke, Scribe

Meeting number 3451 wandered into order at 20:12:06.

Special Orders of Business: Tom Safer noted the passing of LASFS member Marjorie Rosen, a long-time SF fan, from the complications of diabetes. Ed Green announced that Allen Rothstein is in the hospital with a blood clot. He may be out tomorrow, or he may be in for the weekend. He will probably not be allowed to keep the blood clot. (*There goes his collection. – ed.*)

The Menace were read and approved as "These minutes have no honor".

The Registrar: does have honor, in this case, the honor of announcing that we have guests. These are Jason Mills of Burbank, and from the Bay Area, Michael Siladi, and Tony Cratz.

Tonight's Patron Saint: Tom Safer Scratch said he has a marvelous selection of things to show us. Joe Zeff said, he shows real good cartoon shows. Matthew Tepper: It was his pleasure to join him singing in two different performances of Mozart's Requiem on the first anniversary of 9/11. The camaraderie of all involved made it a memorable experience. Tom is one of the friendliest of people here, inviting her to cartoon and anime showings.

Phil Castora said, Tom is the kind of person who gives great niceness a good name. George Van Wagner says he's proud to know him, and he's one of the few willing to get up at 6 AM to show cartoons to adults. Scratch said, "he's a nice guy." Ed Green said, "He's a nice guy who's willing to work really hard to get things done." He was given Three Cheers, and a roadrunner cartoon.

Time-Bound Announcements: Liz Mortensen: Talked to Betty Knight, who said Hi. She had a run-in with sciatica, took it to Germany with her, and had it treated in Switzerland. She needs a ride home from the Autumn Party. See Liz if you're available.

Reviews: Doug Crepeau: Those who think calculus was invented by Leibnitz and Newton will be interested to know that they have found a 10th century palimpsest, in which Archimedes demonstrated a clear understanding of calculus. Snopes, here I come... Karen Anderson observed the report she heard was that Archimedes seemed to be working toward it. Check schedules for a repeat of the program on Cable.

Karl reviewed the touchscreen voting system. There was a line extending into the lobby when he started, but it moved pretty quickly. After being checked in, there was plenty of seating for those waiting for their number to be called. When the number was called, the voter was handed a card which activated the touch screen system. The system was very user-friendly, and most voters will probably be able to figure it out. There were no hanging chads to be seen anywhere. (*Of course not. In California we use lethal injection. – ed.*)

A&S Bookseller in Burbank is going out of business. Sale prices abound.

Fannish Committee Reports: Zeff: Slashdot had an article in which someone described a method of calculating the speed of light

using a microwave oven and chocolate. Line the bottom of the oven with chocolate, and the distance between the pits is the half of the wavelength of the microwave. Multiply by nu to obtain the value of c. What's nu? Not much...

The meeting adjourned at 20:51:44.

Meeting #3452, October 9, 2003
Ed Green, Mike Thorsen, presiding
Karl Lembke, Scribe

Meeting number 3452 wandered into order at 20:11:27. **The Menace** were read and approved as "half the wavelength of chocolate".

The Registrar: Alex fox, is just gone, after having filled out a card. We scared him off! And Karen's mom is back there.

Tonight's Patron Saint: Ed Green said, "She doesn't come around much anymore, but she's one of those colorful members those of us who've been around remember. **Beverly Kanter.**" Marty Cantor said most of the sanctifunding was contributed by Harry Andruschak. Joe Zeff noted that she did put up with Andy for a surprising number of years. Mike Thorsen said that she was the first fan with whom he had a lengthy conversation, and part of him wishes that event had never occurred. CLJII: She was somebody who frequently acted with the best of intentions. She was helpful to David McDaniel, and helped Hank Stein. She was generally very pleasant and tried to be helpful.

Phil Castora said it might be helpful if the Scribe were instructed to strike the remarks. (The Scribe notes that it might not.) Ed noted the Scribe has shown great restraint in the past and should continue to do so. George Van Wagner observes that she gave the club many amusing moments Hare Hobbs said she gave him his first exposure to filking Mike Thorsen says, Legend has it she was one of Rotsler's first models. Beverly Kanter was given Three Cheers and something nice, maybe a case of amnesia. (So where do you get amnesia by the case?)

Committee to Gouge: declared that Christian does not get that box.

Committee Reports: CLJII encouraged all in the vicinity to answer the telephone on those occasions when it rings. On the last Sunday, we'll have FWEMS, a Tribute to the UNO. On the 31st, we'll have the autumn holiday party, beginning at 7 PM. All are welcome. The usual frinight gaming will not occur. In November, we'll have a couple of important meetings. Second meeting is nominations for BOD,

On November 13 the following members were nominated to the Board of Directors: Ed Green, Karl Lembke, Michael Mason, and Merlin R. "Bob" Null. As these incumbents were running for reelection and there were no other candidates, the election on November 20 will be pro-forma and they will be reelected to the Board of Directors. This seems to be the LASFS' reward for masochists: reelection to a LASFS office.

ESTROGEN ZONE

Scrapbooking classes and workshops

If you have scrapbooked before, please bring your supplies and come and sit and talk as the rest work on their projects.

Rebecca will be glad to help anybody who has not done this get started.

Questions? Call Rebecca at: (310) 710-3291

following week is election of anyone who fails to escape nomination. In December, we have procedural elections, Ed Green's chance to not run for President again.

Brother Thorsen passed among us with the collection plate.

See Elayne to convert your memberships for LACon IV. The Library needs volunteers.

Reviews: Rick Foss got bored with Spider Robinson books a while ago. He was agreeably shocked to find he enjoyed and recommends "The Free Lunch", not (yet) part of any series. It's set in an amusement park in a city not entirely unlike Los Angeles. It's a plain, old, good, SF.

Christian McGuire reviewed the new Spider Robinson book. He read it in hard cover and was surprised by Spider's return to his earlier exuberant self.

Time-Bound Announcements: See Elayne to upgrade your membership in LACon.

Fannish Committee Reports: CLJII stated that the channel covering the election most fairly and with the most balance was Comedy Central. Hare Hobbs notes that George Schwartzman, right under Schwarzenegger, came in 12th in the election.

The meeting adjourned at 20:55:03.

*Meeting #3453, October 16, 2003
Ed Green, presiding
Karl Lembke, Scribe*

For lack of anything better to do, meeting number 3453 came to order at 20:12:38.

Special Orders of Business: Marty Cantor announced the passing of Beryl, the wife of Archie Mercer. Beryl died 10/12 of probable heart failure at age 78. Being a bit of a Luddite, she has not been heard from much lately, but was very active in the 50s.

The Menace were read and approved as "Surprise us next week".

The Registrar: We have registrars, but no guests.

Tonight's Patron Saint: Randy Griener, the original human wallet. CLJII Randy is a very nice fellow, living in So Glendale, and used to come every week, and used to contribute piles of money to the club. He never put on airs about it, but just quietly gave money. He was given three Cheers, and a printing press.

We need someone to contact living Saints a week or so before their meetings, so they may attend.

Committee Reports: Ed Green announced that some have expressed concern about the cleanliness of the club. He encourages everyone to pick up after themselves. Sometime during the next three weeks, we'll be having a small cleaning party. If available, please be here. We'll try to provide the janitors with extra resources.

Time-Bound Announcements: Rick Foss announced that Forrest J Ackerman is doing fine, but the greater part of his SF stuff will be on a truck to Seattle, bound for the new SF museum there. View his stuff on Saturdays: dial 323-MOON-FAN to get in touch. Rick's interview with Forry will appear in City Beat / Valley Beat real soon now.

Matthew Tepper notes that China is now a spacefaring power. It was moved that the Secretary send a note to the Chinese government congratulating them on this achievement, using his Chinese calligraphy. Karen Anderson offered an e-mail address. It should be noted that although Karl took a year of Chinese in college, he has since given most of it back.

See Elayne to convert. The Library needs volunteers.

Reviews: George Van Wagner cooks some damn good ribs.

Fannish Committee Reports: Karen Anderson: New Scientist: Richard Dearden recently received email from the security section where he works, informing him his fingerprints had expired, and he needed to submit a new set.

Dan announced Scratch came through his surgery fine.

Miscellaneous: The Scribe has been instructed to send a card to Scratch. Chinese calligraphy is optional.

Eylat has a new job.

Joan Stewart announced Michael Mason's 43rd birthday today, and her own tomorrow.

Christian: forgot what he was going to say.

Frank Waller has goodies, and Christmas catalogs for those who want.

Christian pointed out Karl has gained a house, and lost a lot of weight. (*Thus enabling him to fit into his new house. – ed.*) Karl added, his magic number is 80 at this moment.

The meeting adjourned at 20:54:11

Meeting #3454, October 23, 2003

Mike Thorsen, vice-presiding
Karl Lembke, Scribe

Meeting number 3454 came to order, though there were no menus available, at 20:11:49. Liz and Ed are currently in Chicago attending Liz' sister, Rose. The meeting will be managed by the Substitute President.

Special Orders of Business: Unfortunately, Rose has passed away.

The Menace were read and approved as "Chinese Calligraphy."

The Registrar: Serenity Forbes, from Los Angeles. Kate Fontani. Both seem to be fitting in nicely, which scares the registrar.

Tonight's Patron Saint: Lee Jacobs: Karen Anderson recalls he was a leading member of the Wash DC SF association. She learned about putting out fanzines and being active in fandom, and contributed to the typo that resulted in her publishing the first filk songs. Phil: Lee was a member when he joined, a good card player, and a nice person. Len: Lee was a radio ham, and tended to call people from across the country, patched through by radio. And someone gave us lots of money on his behalf. Bill Ellern: Lee Jacobs did not submit the money for his sainthood, as he was deceased at the time. He was given Three Rousing Cheers and a windward passage.

Committee to Gouge: auctioned off some udderly nice stuff and a cigar box, netting the club some moo-la.

Time-Bound Announcements: The imitation Liz announced that people need to pay him money.

Brad Linaweaver is pushing a Battlestar Galactica convention, because the Gilligan's Island convention got canceled. Flyers are available from Brad. Forry Ackerman appeared at the Karl Hess club meeting last Monday, and looked really good.

Neil Schulman announced a program, every Saturday, 4 PM- 8 PM, Cybercity radio, covering a wide range of science, SF, paranormal, etc. Art Bell Lite. Cybercityradio.com. The host is very good, giving Art Bell a run for his money.

Alice Massoglia announced she's going to become a marathoner. She's finished 8 weeks of training, and is up to ten-mile runs. She's joining an AIDS marathon, and is asking her friends at LASFS to help her make her fundraising goals. Flyers will be available.

Reviews: Joe Zeff: Some may be familiar with Taltos series. He's

published a pair of historical novels. The Paths of the Dead, the newest, this first in a trilogy about the viscount. It's strange reading dialog where Morrolon is talking, not in the way we're used to, but the way Lord Paarfi would remember him speaking.

Hare Hobbs reviewed a Rotsler type movie. He saw Bikini Airways, with several LASFS members in it. *It has a high Buchman rating.*

Fannish Committee Reports: Marty Cantor from the committee to prove all knowledge is contained in fanzines, Vanessa's fanzine in LASFAPA lists some interesting patents, including this one for a motorized ice cream cone.

Miscellaneous

Frank Waller sells stuff and has Christmas catalogs.

Christian McGuire moved to adjourn so we can listen to our guest!

The meeting adjourned at 20:58:02.

Meeting #3455, October 30, 2003

Ed Green, presiding
Karl Lembke, Scribe

Meeting number 3455 came to order at 20:10:22, or at least so we think. Someone must have left an arrow in the room, because we had an infestation of time flies.

Special Orders of Business:

Two this evening. 1: Harry Stubbs, aka Hal Clement, passed a couple of days ago in his sleep. If you don't know his work, check some of it out in the library. Any of it. It's all good. 2: On the lighter side, the home of Larry and Fuzzy Niven was magically spared by the power of science fiction and pure thought. The fire came up to 15 feet from the house, then turned around and went home, urged away, perhaps, by the crowd of fire fighters between the two.

The Menace were read and approved as "These minutes brought to you

L.A.F.A.

(Los Angeles Filkers Anonymous)

L.A.F.A. Filksing -
Saturday, December 13, 2003
Filk: 7 PM to ???

Pre-Filk Dinner: 5:30 PM: VIP Harbor
Seafood Restaurant (Chinese
cuisine, including dim sum)

Brandyhall:

Lee and Barry Gold, hosts
3965 Alla Rd., Los Angeles, CA
90066; (310) 306-7456

PRE-FILK DINNER: 5:30 PM at VIP
Harbor Seafood Restaurant.
11701 Wilshire Boulevard,
Los Angeles
Take the 405 (San Diego Fwy) to
Wilshire and turn west
Please phone or email the Golds by
Wednesday to let us know you plan on
coming.

DIRECTIONS: See Thomas Bros.
L.A. Co., pg. 672, B-5 (1992 edition);
pg. 49, grid E-3 (older editions).
Brandyhall is located southwest of the
intersection of the San Diego
(I-405) and Santa Monica (I-10)
Freeways.

L.A.F.A. info: Barry & Lee Gold:
(310) 306-7456

by the letters A and S.”

Special order: A cake was brought in so Liz could celebrate her birthday, only a little late.

Marina Stern announced that in gladness that the Niven's house didn't burn down, she is sacrificing a cake, not a goat.

The Registrar: Ben Introduced Mike Smith, from Artesia. No, not Arisia, Artesia. He found us through a fellow passenger on the green line.

Tonight's Patron Saint: We have two tonight. **Bill Rotsler:** CLJII: Mr Rotsler was a photographer, cinematographer, writer, author, director, model builder, sculptor, super genius, and was positively up to his armpits in beautiful babes most of the time. Rick Foss: He could easily have taken himself seriously, but refrained from doing so. Joe Zeff: Bill was so prolific, he is still eligible for best fan artist Hugo, years after becoming metabolically challenged. *(To clarify that: ye ed has a box with hundreds (or maybe thousands of Bill's unpubbed illos which he makes available to all faneds. – ed.)* Hare Hobbs: He's the only person who's had his photography, cartoons, fiction, and non-fiction published in Playboy. Did any of his sculptures ever appear in the backgrounds of his photos in Playboy? That could be another category.

Phil Castora: He was at least as good a man as he was talented. Doug Crepeau: He provided a number of officially blank tapes for auction. Thorsen: His memorial service was held here, and the number of attending filled the room to overflowing. Matthew Tepper: He was the most genial of people he's ever known. He once met Marilyn Monroe, and went house hunting with her. This is a story only Bill could tell. Fred Patten: He once asked to borrow a book. Bill said he'd bring it to the next meeting. He didn't, because he was in the hospital. After his release, he phoned back, apologized, and told Fred to come over and pick up the book any time. We have several of his Hugos in the display case. Bill Rotsler was given Three Cheers, and four or five more Hugos.

Francis Hamit, who is actually not here tonight. George Mulligan: A fund of very interesting stories from his years in Vietnam. He's a good writer of thrillers. Hare Hobbs: He had the Red Cross come and teach us CPR. Maybe we should do that again. He was always interested in letting us know his opinions about security and related matters. Rick Foss: He has tirelessly helped other writers with copyright problems, and helped people get into journalism and other writing. Phil Castora: The amount he's done is surprising because of his chronic back condition. He actually met a man who rejoiced in having the name "Dinty Moore". Dinty Moore is a graduate in the 80s of the Iowa Writer's Workshop, and teaches creative writing. Ken Porter: Francis is a nice man, and a nice person to have around. Francis Hamit was given Three Cheers, and a permanent security job.

Committee Reports: Reminder: The Lord High Janitors request your help in keeping the LASFS clean.

The President appointed an ad hoc committee to report on the hous-

ing of SF authors. The first committee member to report was Larry Niven: "We fled when we saw fire coming over the ridge, and returned when it felt safe. The house was still there. The fire came just about to our property line."

Sandy Cohen: Dennis Miller reports his house also survived.

Ed Green: As far as I know, no fans have lost homes.

Marina Stern report: David and Bobby Weiss are still evacuated. Several times. House is still standing.

Marty Cantor: Milt Stevens was not in danger, but had trouble with the smoke. *(Yeah. He complained that the air did not have enough air in it. – ed.)*

With any luck, this committee will never have to report again.

Time-Bound Announcements: Volunteers are still needed in the library.

Reviews: Rick Foss reviewed some manga – a collection of manga written by Americans. This was more tolerable than what he's seen before. "Rising Stars of Manga" only has two in the style he's used to, but some very good stories. Also, the Cirque du Soleil is in town. If you wish to see the absolute state of the art in staging, go see it. It's in the parking lot of the Staples Center:

Doug Crepeau notes that Adam Warren's Dirty Pair is the best Americanized Manga

Fannish Committee Reports: Dan reported that Scratch is doing OK, and can now smell his food. He's slowly regaining his strength, and should be able to make it next week.

Miscellaneous: Rick Foss notes his interview with Forry may be read in City Beat.

The meeting adjourned at 21:04:40.

*LASFS Board of Directors
Meeting of October 12, 2003
Karl Lembke, Chairman
Joe Zeff, Secretary*

Directors: Karl Lembke, Mike Thorsen, Bill Ellern, Brett Achorn, Marty Cantor, Liz Mortensen, Ed Green, Bob Null, Joe Zeff, Cathy Beckstead, Michael Mason.

Others: Joyce Sperling, Tadao Tomomatsu, Anne Morrel, Greg Bilan, Stacy Hallman, Arlene Satin, Scott Beckstead, Joan Steward, Ed Hooper, Joe Fekete, Kris Bauer, Francis Hamit.

Chairman Karl Lembke called the meeting to order at 11:10:52 a.m., with seven members present; an eighth came in as the meeting started. As the minutes had been e-mailed to the Board members, they were accepted as emailed without dissent, and the Scribe not

voting.

NEW MEMBERS: Michael McKinney and Vickie Shapero. Both were accepted. It was decided to send De Profundis out with the welcome booklet.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As always, we have money, but can't spend it without permission. This was quite acceptable to the Board.

FACILITIES: Dr. Gleason, Director of Plant Parenthood, has done some stuccoing and replaced some bricks. We have a verbal estimate from an electrician on the lighting in Freehafer Hall of \$200 plus material. We will be getting the supplies ourselves, to avoid having the electrician charge us a markup, as soon as we have the list. We have a new reclining chair in the courtyard, provided by the curb down the street. As almost always, the carpet needs cleaning and is gradually deteriorating. Cleaning isn't a problem, but it will need replacing eventually. A Handicapped space stencil is available, and there was a mock-up of what the space might look like after painting. We will need to vacuum the area before painting, as nothing less will get all the sand and grit out. The cost of paint is roughly \$50, well within our discretionary limits.

We have long had an agreement with the owner of the building to the West of us, about sharing the parking. Alas, the owner of the business to the East won't allow his employees park behind the building, and one of them has been parking on our property. Naturally, the dentist is getting concerned about the loss of space. After discussion, we reached a consensus that we will have somebody put notes on the car, reminding the owner that this is not public property and he does not have the right to park here. If this doesn't work, we will warn him that if he continues to park here he will be towed, then follow up if needed.

Ed Green pointed out that the cost of putting our Coat of Arms on a new sign for our pole sign may well be low enough to be worth while. This would also improve our image, possibly attracting more guests. As we need to replace the lighting anyway, we may as well do everything at once. Michael Mason moved, with Bill Ellem seconding, that we allow Ed Green to spend up to \$1000 on getting a new sign made and installed. This passed, with Mr. Green abstaining.

COMPUTERS: As always, we need to go through the latest kipple and get rid of that we don't need. We have freed up some disk space on one or two computers, but are still very short. As the drives we've been donated are in the .5 to 6 Gig range, Bob Null suggested that we buy some used drives in the 20 to 40 Gig range, much larger, but still small by today's standards. Ed Green moved, with Marty Cantor seconded, to spend up to \$600 to upgrade hard drives. This passed with two Nays and one abstention.

HALL DECORATION: Tadao is a little behind, but will have a report next month.

PLAQUES: We will have the Forry Award plaque, both the perpetual and the award, will be taken care of this month.

GESTETNER: Doing fine.

VIDEO PROJECTOR: Also fine, but the amplifier is getting

crunchy, and will need attention.

MARKETING COMMITTEE: The bookmarks have been updated and will be reprinted in the near future. There are also plans to send press info to local radio and TV stations in time for LosCon.

PUBLICATIONS: There will be a new version of the Kid's Lit list, possibly including some recent books, out by the end of the year. The Adult list will be ready in time for LosCon.

VIDEO LIBRARY: Mr. Jackson has been pulling out the least popular videos, making more room for DVDs.

LIBRARY: Nothing new to report, except that they have given a new donation list to the Treasurer.

LASFS.ORG: The webmaster expects to be updating it in the near future.

LOSCON 31: They will have a table and party at the upcoming LosCon. Their author GoH will be Tim Powers; the Fan Guests will be James Stanley Daugherty and Kathryn Daugherty.

LOSCON 30: There has been a very successful committee meeting since the last Board Meeting and a party at Conjecture. Helping at a folding party for Progress Report 2 were Marty Cantor, Matthew Tepper, Phil Castora, Tom Safer, Joan Steward, Joyce Barnes, Ed Hooper, Tadao, Rick Flemming, Liz Mortensen, Shirley Bigna, Ed Green. The Dealer's Room and Art Show are sold out, and the Program is complete, although not all confirmed.

LACON IV: Ed Green has noted that this WorldCon will be taking place during the anniversary of the LASFS's founding, and nearing the Society's 75th. He wanted to know if the Board feels that it would be a good idea to a history of LASFS for this, at no cost other than printing. The project will be referred to as "The LASFS 75th Anniversary Plus or Minus" and is nominally headed by Ed Green.

LALACON: We have no idea yet what it will be called, but it will be on Cinco de Mayo weekend. Tadao will be out of town, Mike Donahue will be available.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL: There are nine committees, with non-council members welcome, and Marty Cantor is the chairman of the Rules and Elections Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: The Board has a long custom of expediting things in emergencies by private canvass of members or, in recent years, voting by email. There are also times when we want to adjust the spending limit on a motion without waiting until the next Board meeting, to prevent needless delays. Bill Ellem is understandably concerned that proper records need to be kept both of any such discussions, and the votes taken. After con-



MAGIC
The Gathering

Tournaments
held at LASFS
First Friday
every month

Contact for Magic The
Gathering:
Drew Sanders,
mailto:
Drew_Sanders@hotmail.com
or
peggy_little@earthlink.net

sidering the various concerns, we decided that our policy would be: First, any issue may be brought up on the Board mailing list but motions may only be voted on at a Board meeting; second, already passed motions may be discussed and amended by email as long as they are brought up and entered into the minutes at the next meeting and third, emergencies may be dealt with by email as needed, without waiting for a meeting. We also agreed that such discussions are not private, and that any member may print out such discussions or pass them on to others as needed.

CONVENTION DELEGATES: None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45:05 PM.

LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE

Date: December 14, 2001

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: LASFS Clubhouse

THE RULES OF THE LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE

by Leigh Strother-Vien and others

The Gift Exchange is considered an extension of the previous night's meeting. Dues will be collected, if not previously paid. All **paid-up, active** members of LASFS are eligible to participate. You must be present **in person** - - **NO PROXIES!** *You should expect to spend several hours at this event.*

To participate in the Gift Exchange, bring an **anonymous, wrapped** gift, with *****

a value of **at least \$10**. The gift **must** be related to **Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Fandom** (see GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS if unsure). The gift you place in the Exchange should be considered a donation. Because of the wide range of gifts that may be contributed, and because of varying tastes, you might not receive a gift that you really want! You *might* in fact get a gift you don't want at all! In this event, please bear in mind that **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN**. (If you also happen to get some nice loot, that should merely be considered a very nice bonus!)

On entering the Gift Exchange, you will receive a registration number. The registration numbers will be randomized, to determine when each person will be called to choose a gift from the table.

The first person called will choose a gift from the table, open it, and **show it to the audience**. Make sure the rest of the crowd knows what the gift is, because that lets the crowd have fun, and **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN**.

The rest of the participants, in the order called, will each choose a gift from the table, open it, and **show it to the audience**. If the person who has just opened a gift desires, he/she may "Force Trade" that gift with any gift that has been previously opened. **THE PERSON HOLDING THE DESIRED GIFT MUST ACCEPT THE**

TRADE.

The first person in the Gift Exchange is allowed the last "Force Trade," after everyone has selected & opened a gift.

CRUD CALLS: a "Crud Call" may occur if a gift is deemed unsuitable. "Crud Calls" may **only** be made if (1) the gift has insufficient value; (2) the gift is not related to Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Fandom.

"Crud Calls" may NOT be made merely because a person is unhappy with a gift, if it otherwise meets the requirements. If you don't like it, trade it away. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.**

The person **opening** a gift may make a "Crud Call" at that time. Also, a person **receiving** a gift on a "Force Trade" may make a "Crud Call" at **that** time. "Crud Calls" are **not** allowed at any other time.

"Saves" may be made after a "Crud Call," if any participant wants the gift that has been declared "crud." If more than one person wants the "crud" gift, the person holding it may choose among the gifts offered in exchange. If only one person offers to take the "crud" gift, the person who made the "Crud Call" **must** accept the trade.

After the trade, neither person may make another "crud Call" on either of the two gifts in question. A participant may trade his/her future gift choice on a "Crud Call." The person making the "Crud Call" will then select another gift at the appropriate time. The acceptor of the "crud" gift may not make another "Crud Call" on it.

If no one volunteers to "Save," a "Forced Trade" with the perpetrator of the "crud" gift - - whether an already opened gift or a future selection - - is mandated.

The participants may overrule a "Crud Call" by a majority vote if they consider it unjustified.

If A Judgment Call is required in any instance, the decision of the Gift Exchange "Producer" is **FINAL!**

Please note: Gifts in the gift exchange are considered the Property of the club until the Gift Exchange is officially declared "**over**." If you are in possession of an opened gift and need to leave (either the room or completely), you **must leave your gift** with someone else. It is still open to "force trades."

Also: Tantrums will result in the person or persons having Tantrums being Banned from future gift exchanges. Tantrums are Not Fun. AND THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.

After the Gift Exchange is over, Free Trading of gifts may occur. This trading is outside the Gift Exchange, and is done by persons willing to trade all or parts of their gifts with each other.

*****SPECIAL RULE:** The "**Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover**" is a traditional feature of the Gift Exchange. While not an acceptable gift by itself (due to insufficient monetary value - if you have possession of it, you got it for free), it can be added to any gift. **Whoever ends up with the Manhole Cover at the end of the Gift Exchange is charged with the responsibility to see that it is rein-**

roduced in the next year's Gift Exchange. The possessor of the Cover does *not* have to add it to his own right, just see that someone does.***

GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

1. If **you** wouldn't be happy to get a gift, **don't** put it in the Gift Exchange. Others probably won't like it either.
2. Having participants fight over an expensive gift ruins the spirit of the Gift Exchange. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.** If you bring a gift worth MORE than minimum value, do **not** expect equal value in return.
3. Rotsler's Rules for Masquerade Presentations can apply to Gift Exchange presentations as well: "Funny is better than serious. Short is better than long. Short and Funny is best."
4. Do **not** put anything **offensive** into the Gift Exchange. **Lewd, crude, or rude** gifts are *not* funny. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.**
5. If it took more than 20 minutes to wrap the gift, it will take too long to unwrap it at the Gift Exchange. Keep the wrappings **simple**, so that it can be opened in a reasonable amount of time.
6. When giving books that are part of a multi-part series, it is considered good form (and perhaps even good taste) to include the first book (and perhaps **all** previous books) of the series.
7. Some gifts that were very popular at previous Gift Exchanges were: stuffed animals (especially those from comic strips); telescopes; recently published books (in new condition!); toy ray guns; coffee table books about S.F., Fantasy, or Space; and stuff for computers. High quality gifts of chocolate are considered Fannish!

Please note that, prior to 1996, "quality" alcoholic gifts were also encouraged. **THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE** The use of alcohol is your own business, but the Club would prefer to NOT encourage alcohol in the Gift Exchange, as more and more members are either abstainers or minors!
8. Items that bombed: miscellaneous (dull, boring, mundane) food, hand-crafted "artwork," used paperbacks if small in number or poor in condition, and **anything** having to do with 'Zotz!' or the Hubbard Decology, unless Crud Insurance (high quality chocolate, for example) is included.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

Q. "What exactly does 'related to science fiction, fantasy, or fandom' mean?"

A. **If you don't know what's related to science fiction or fantasy, you're in the wrong club.** As for **Fandom**-related, these would be things that are associated with the activities of organized fandom, ie: Mementos from conventions, propeller beanies, chocolate, costumes, computer hardware and software, comic books, collected fanzines, manuscripts from pro authors, bookshelves, video storage devices, interesting toys, games, puzzles, sheet music and/or

recordings by Filk artists, miniatures, leather-craft tools, chain mail, etc.

Q. "I've just been force traded a large box of "Magic The Gathering" Cards. I don't *like* "Magic The Gathering." Am I allowed to call Crud?"

A. **No.** The **nature** of the gift is unquestionably related to science fiction, fantasy, or fandom. The **value** of the gift is unquestionably in excess of \$10. **There are no other criteria.** Your options are to (a) hope that someone force trades for the Magic cards, leaving you with something else, or (b) wait until after the Exchange and try to obtain something you prefer during Free Trading.

Q. "I've ended up with the Chocolate covered Manhole Cover, but I think it's a silly tradition and I don't want to deal with it. Can I throw the darned thing away?"

A. **Only if you want to be ostracized by all of organized fandom.** Most people don't have that much masochism in them, so you would be advised to simply give the Cover to someone who takes it more seriously than you do.

Q. "I've picked the Pournelle Box (greed is good!), but someone wants to force trade me a box of "Magic The Gathering" cards for it. Should I allow it, or scream, whine and complain in a bud annoying voice until they relent?" **In the first place, they *won't* relent. The rules are on their side.** In the second place, throwing such a tantrum would only get you **thrown out** and **banned** from future Exchanges. Your only real option is to make an effort to act like an **adult** (yes, it's terribly hard, but necessary) and allow the trade without putting up a fight.

Q. "I'm on a diet, but the buffet table looks so tempting. Should I eat more?"

A. **Yes.** The club *always* lays on too much food for this event, and we have no place to store leftovers. Feel free to eat us out of house and home. **Diet later!**

Once again, **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.** With that firmly in mind, Go Thou And Do Likewise!

(Addendum by the editor)

In my twenty six years of participating in the Gift Exchange I have twice won the Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover. Putting it into the freezer for a year is not much of a problem, and it does help maintain a fun fannish tradition, with minimal hassle, returning the Cover in a gift at the next Exchange.

There are many fannish traditions, some of them more important than others. One of the traditions attached to the LASFS Gift Exchange is The Pool. This is a pool involving how many fans will be participating in the Exchange. The Pool was started by Bruce Pelz in the late '70s or early '80s; and, after a few years of running it, he turned it over to me. I have continued this tradition ever since and will be again running it this year.

The rules are simple: every participant in the Gift Exchange can pick

up to 2 numbers at 25¢ each, with the winner being the person who picks the exact number of participants in the Gift Exchange. The winner will be announced as soon as the Gift Exchange Administrator (or assistant) announces that no more participants can be accepted. In the rare event of nobody picking that number and there is a gap (or gaps) in the list, the person picking the closest lower number will be declared the winner.

The winner of The Pool gets one-half of the money collected in wagers, the LASFS gets the other half.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Matthew B. Tepper
6614 Farndale Ave.
North Hollywood, CA 91606

Nice to see *De Prof* bubbling along. (*That is DE PROF, folks, not its editor. - ed.*) with more from your treasure trove of Rotsler illos. The "Ed Cox Doodle Here" notice is very traditional. I like tradition.

One correction: the title of Heinlein's first published story is *Lifeline*, not *Time Line*. Perhaps I made a speako?

Arthur D. Hlavaty
206 Valentine St.
Yonkers, NY 10704

Congrats to one and all on winning the Worldcon race, and to John Hertz for his well-earned Big Heart Award. (*Next he will win the Big*

Liver Award. - ed.)

Back when your Dodgers were still in Brooklyn, the organist always played "Three Blind Mice" for the umps. (*They are not my Dodgers - I am an Angels fan. - ed.*)

zines received in trade

(All zines are available to read and are in the *De Profundis* mailbox and can be taken out for a week)

club zines: WESTWIND #268 (NWSFS). EINBLATT! 2003 (MinnStf). INSTANT MESSAGE #727 & 728 (NESFA). DASFAx Vol. 35, No. 10 & Vol. 35, No. 11 (DASFA). PULSAR #299 (PorSFIS). PSFS NEWS: November 2003 (PSFS). FUTURE TIMES Vol. 6, #11 (ASFS). NASFA SHUTTLE Vol. 23, No. 10 & Vol. 23, No. 11 (NASFA).

other zines: PABLO LENNIS Nov. 2003 (John Thiel).

NEW BOOKS

(*This is a section devoted to listing new books and other items received by the LASFS Library. Our extensive library is not just for collecting and looking at that wonderful collection of books on shelves. Members may take them out and read them. The Librarian has not provided a current list.*)



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c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society
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